

Dixiana Baptist Church

Statements of Faith

From the time of the Apostles to the present, Christians have articulated their doctrine (beliefs) in brief, definitive statements. As those who know God, we believe it necessary to set forth in a concise fashion the cornerstone truths of our church as guided by Scripture. Our Statement of Faith summarizes the essential Christian beliefs, demonstrates unity in Christ, and safeguards the church from error.

I. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Romans 2:16; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; Acts 20:32

II. OF THE ONE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is God, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 15:11; John 1:1-4; Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 4:24; Psalm 77:13; Mark 12:29; 1 Timothy 2:5; Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; Revelation 1:6

II. THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1,3; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; Romans 1:19,20; Ephesians 4:5,6

III. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1,2; 2:5,6; I Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6

IV. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; 8:46; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:21-23; John 20:30, 31; Matthew 20:28; Ephesians 1:4; Acts 1:11; Romans 5:6-8; 6:9,10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:28; I Timothy 3:16

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide. John 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; John 16:9-14; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26

VI. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse. Romans 3:23; Matthew 26:28; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 John 1:10; Ephesians 2:1-3

VII. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. Ephesians 2:4-5; John 3:16; Romans 5: 8; Hebrews 1:3-4; Hebrews 7:25

VIII. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity. Roman 3:24; Romans 5:1; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Galatians 3:24

IX. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. Romans 8:2; Galatians 5:1; Romans 6:7

X. OF GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life. John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:8; 1 Peter 1:22-25; Ephesians 4:22-24

XI. OF REPENTANCE AND TRUTH

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior. Mark 1:15; John 16:8; Luke 18:13; Romans 10:9-11

XII. OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence. 2 Timothy 1:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Exodus 33:18-19; 1 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Romans 8:28-31; 2 Peter 1:10-11

XIII. OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means, – especially, the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer. 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 John 2:29; Philippians 2:12-13

XIV. OF THE PERSERVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe that only those are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John 8:31; 1 John 2:19; Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:16

XV. OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin: to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church. Romans 3:31; Romans 7:12; Romans 8:7-8; Romans 8:2-4

XVI. OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are Elders or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus; 1 Corinthians 1:1-13; Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:20; Ephesians 4:7; Philippians 1:1

XVII. OF BAPTISM AND LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination. Acts 8:36-39; Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 11:27

XVIII. OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remains for the people of God. Acts 20:7; Exodus 20:8; Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 4:3-11

XIX. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that Civil Government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Romans 13:1-7

XX. OF THE RESURRECTION AND RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS

We believe that Christ arose bodily the third day according to the scriptures; that He ascended to the right hand of the throne of God; that he alone is our merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God. We believe in the premillennial second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. At the rapture of the church, Christ will come in the air for His saints, and after the tribulation, He will come to the earth with His saints. We believe that Jesus Christ will reign on this earth for a thousand years in righteousness until He has put all enemies under His feet. Matthew 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:43; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 5:9-10

XXI. OF MISSIONS

The command to give the Gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable, and this commission is given to churches and Christians. Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:5; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Romans 13:15

XXII. THE GRACE OF GIVING

2Co 8:7 But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. 1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

Heb 7:2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

Heb 7:3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he continues a priest forever.

Heb 7:4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

Mal 3:10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.